

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03996 011419Z  
ACTION FBOE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01  
INR-07 CIAE-00 /030 W  
-----011425Z 022919 /44

P R 312037Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0721  
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 3996

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ABLD, ACOM, ASEC  
SUBJ: MOVE TO NOB BAIRE #2

REF: BA-2242

1. FOR REASONS DISCUSSED BELOW, WE HAVE DECIED TO DELAY  
THE MOVE TO THE NEW CHANCERY FOR A FURTHER 45 DAYS. THE  
45 DAYS WILL BE USED TO SOLVE AVOID OR ALLEVIATE ITEMS  
DISCUSSED BELOW AND TO SCHEDULE ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR AN  
ORDERLY MOVE.

2. SOME OF THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN REFTL  
CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY JUNE 1. THE FLOORING WILL NOT BE  
COMPLETED IN THE TWO BASEMENTS. THE ELECTRICITY IS  
FUNCTIONAL BUT WE RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT THE AMPERAGE IS  
INADEQUATE TO HANDE XEXOR COPY MACHINES AND MMMMMMISCCCELLANEIOUS  
SHOP TOOLS. THE CHANGES REQUIRED IN CERTAIN ROOMS WILL NOT  
BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE MOVE. THE CENTRAL SWTICHBOARD  
AND PRIVATEEEEE TELEPHONE LINES WILL BE READY BUT THE TIE-LINES  
CANNOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL MID-JUNE.

3. THE EMBASSY COULD OPERATE IN SPITE OF PROBLEMS NOTED IN  
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PARAGRAPH TWO BUT THIS WOULD LEAD TO CO-MINGLING OF 100-150  
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, 50-80 MOVERS, EMBASSY STAFF AND (AFTER  
JUNE 19) CONSULAR VISITORS. THIS WOULD PRESENT A VERY DIFFICULT  
SECURITY CONTROL PROBLEM AND PERHAPS HARM USG INTERESTS IN  
DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION WITH CONTRACTORS.

4. THE REASONS FOR MOVING ASAP ARE VERY COMPELLING. THE

OWNERS OF PRESENT CHANCERY HAD STATED THAT OUR RENT WOULD BE RAISED TO AN EXHORBITANT LEVEL AFTER JUNE 30. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH THEM. THEY NEED APPROX. 1000 SQUARE METERS OF OFFICE SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE PART OF THEIR GROUP WHICH WILL BE EVICTED IN JULY. IF WE CAN PROVIDE SPACE FOR THIS SECTOR OF THEIR BUSINESS, THEY WILL NOT RAISE THE RENT. THEREFORE, WE PROPOSE TO MOVE THE GENERAL SERVICES AND PERSONNEL SECTIONS TO NOB IN JUNE AND ALLOW THE OWNERS TO MOVE INTO THE VACATED SPACE. THIS DOES CREATE PROBLEMS FOR SECURITY BUT THESE ARE MUCH MORE SURMOUNTABLE THAN CONTROLLING THE SITUATION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 3.

5. WE HAD ANTICIPATED RETURNING THE BUILDING TO OWNERS ON JULY 31. THIS WILL NOW BE SEPT 30. THE ADDITIONAL MONTH IN BOTH CASES IS TO ALLOW TIME FOR RESTORATION OF BUILDING WHICH IS REQUIRED BY OUR LEASE. THE ADDITIONAL DELAY WILL RESULT IN \$92,884 COST TO USG. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO QUANTIFY THE ADDITIONAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION WERE WE TO MOVE IN JUNE, BUT IT WOULD OFFSET THE \$92,884 TO THE EXTENT THAT WE FEEL IT WOULD BE BETTER MANAGEMENT TO DELAY THE MOVE.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME CONTRACTORS MAY BE CHARGED WITH LIQUIDATED DAMAGES. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH TO EXCUSE ANY CONTRACTOR FROM A GENUINE LIABILITY BUT WE WANT TO EXPRESS A VERY REAL FEAR WE HAVE THAT IMPENDING LEGAL ACTIONS COULD FORCE THE CONTRACTORS INTO A LEGAL STALEMATE IN WHICH THEY PERCEIVE THEIR ONLY OUT IN THE FORM OF STOPPING WORK. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THIS HAPPENING SO FAR BUT WE VERY MUCH WISH TO AVOID A REPETITION OF LATE 1975 WHEN WORK CEASED FOR FIVE MONTHS

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PENDING LEGAL DECISIONS. WE REQUEST THAT FBO GIVE URGENT ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM. IT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN SEPTEL.

7. THE CURRENT SCHEDULE IS TO BEGIN MOVING THE NEW FURNITURE INTO THE NOB ON JUL 16. THE MOVE WILL BE STAGED THROUGH AUG 7 BUT THE CHANCERY WILL BE OFFICIALLY IN OPERATION BEGINNING MONDAY JULY 25, 1977.

8. POST WILL INFORM ALL OFFICES WHEN THEIR TECHNICIANS SHOULD ARRIVE BY JUNE 8.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Type:** TE  
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